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PROPERTY TAX INTERNET PORTAL OPENS

Assessor Rick Auerbach today announced the establishment of a multi-jurisdictional Los Angeles County Property Tax Website to provide one-stop internet answers to basic questions about assessment, taxation and appeals matters.

The new website can be accessed at <u>lacountypropertytax.com</u>

"This is government cooperation at its best and will serve property owners and taxpayers with convenient access to a site which provides important information and offers clear and concise answers to basic questions," Auerbach said.

Auerbach praised the close working relationships which resulted in the new website, and, specifically, the involvement of County Auditor-Controller J. Tyler McCauley, Treasurer & Tax Collector Mark Saladino and Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, who oversees the Assessment Appeals Board, whose members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

"This new site not only provides detailed information on how the property assessment and taxation system works, it answers the most frequently asked questions from homeowners and businesses," Auerbach noted, "and also includes links to the individual websites of each department involved in this process as well as a substantial amount of information in Spanish."

"The County Property Tax Portal website," said Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina, "is an excellent example of how close cooperation between county departments can benefit all property owners, "whether they possess a home or a business. It proves that county agencies can use technology to better serve the public. And by offering vital information and forms over the Internet, the portal provides us with a glimpse of how residents will conduct daily business with the county in the future."

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The new site offers detailed information on how to read tax bills and how to contact the various county offices involved in the assessment and tax process. There are also links to assessed property values and recent neighborhood property sales as well as access to parcel maps and forms which can be downloaded.

"I hope it helps answer taxpayer questions and it will also include a user link to submit a question form which will be forwarded to the appropriate department for a timely response," Auerbach said.

Each of the county departments will continue to maintain its own website. The new website will contain links to the websites of the Board of Supervisors, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the State Board of Equalization and other property-related sites of interest.

"We are excited about this new website," Auerbach added. "While technology is one of many tools, it can enhance but never replace the personal contact our employees provide at our office counters or over the telephone."